

C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for activating a Fibre Channel adapter, said method comprising:
receiving an activation request from a requesting device;
and
authenticating the requesting device, wherein the
authenticating includes receiving an authentication
key from an authentication server; and
transitioning the adapter from a quasi-open state to an
open state in response to ~~receiving the activation~~
~~request~~ the requesting device being authenticated.
2. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1 further
comprising:
sending an activated response to the requesting device.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method as described in Claim 3 1
wherein the authenticating includes:
receiving a message from the requesting device wherein the
message is encrypted using a requesting device private
key; and
deciphering the message using a requesting device public
key.
6. (Currently Amended) The method as described in Claim 5
wherein the deciphering includes receiving the requesting
device public key from ~~an~~ the authentication server.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as described in Claim 3 1 further comprising:
searching a list of authorized requesting devices;
wherein the ~~setting~~ transitioning is further in response to the requesting device matching one of the authorized requesting devices.
8. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:
one or more processors;
a memory accessible by the processors;
a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors;
a Fibre Channel adapter operable to connect the information handling system to a Fibre Channel network; and
a Fibre Channel activation routine, the routine including:
means for receiving an activation request from a requesting device; and
means for authenticating the requesting device,
wherein the means for authenticating includes
means for receiving an authentication key from an
authentication server; and
means for transitioning the adapter from a quasi-open state to an open state in response to receiving the ~~activation request~~ requesting device being
authenticated.
9. (Original) The information handling system as described in Claim 8 further comprising:
means for sending an activated response to the requesting device.
10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in Claim ~~10~~ 8 wherein the means for authenticating includes:
means for receiving a message from the requesting device wherein the message is encrypted using a requesting device private key; and
means for deciphering the message using a requesting device public key.
13. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in Claim 12 wherein the means for deciphering includes:
means for receiving the requesting device public key from ~~an~~ the authentication server.
14. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in Claim ~~10~~ 8 further comprising:
means for searching a list of authorized requesting devices;
wherein the ~~setting~~ transitioning is further in response to the requesting device matching one of the authorized requesting devices.
15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for activating a Fibre Channel adapter, said computer program product comprising:
means for receiving an activation request from a requesting device; ~~and~~
means for authenticating the requesting device, wherein the means for authenticating includes means for receiving an authentication key from an authentication server;

means for transitioning the adapter from a quasi-open state to an open state in response to ~~receiving the activation request~~ the requesting device being authenticated.

16. (Original) The computer program product as described in Claim 15 further comprising:
means for sending an activated response to the requesting device.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in Claim ~~17~~ 15 wherein the means for authenticating includes:
means for receiving a message from the requesting device wherein the message is encrypted using a requesting device private key; and
means for deciphering the message using a requesting device public key.
20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in Claim 19 wherein the deciphering includes receiving the requesting device public key from ~~an~~ the authentication server.